



**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 4, 1999

Dear Conferee:

As you go to conference on H.R. 1501, the **Consequences for Juvenile Offenders Act**, we respectfully request you advocate maintaining the **Franks/Pickering Children's Internet Protection Amendment** as adopted by the House of Representatives in the final bill text.

The Internet opens an exciting world of discovery for over 15 million children every day, with millions of other children expected soon to gain access. For these millions of children, the Internet is an important educational resource, providing up-to-date information on every conceivable topic they study in school.

However, this extraordinarily powerful learning tool can also have a dark, threatening side. Pedophiles and other criminals use the Internet to contact our children in those places where they should be most secure -- our schools and libraries.

The reality is materials which breed hate, violence, pornography and even personal danger are always just a "click" away from children exploring the Internet. With online predators masquerading as children, trying to secretly win the confidence of a child and then arrange a meeting with an unsuspecting victim, protections for our children are necessary. The Internet can be as dangerous as it is informative and helpful. Common sense Internet tools which allow teachers and librarians to protect our children are both needed and sensible to avoid the more than 17,000 documented Internet sites devoted to child pornography and pedophilia.

We believe every child in America should have access to this amazing learning tool -- provided we take sensible precautions.

The Franks/Pickering filtering amendment simply requires schools and libraries to select a filtering technology, if they accept E-Rate subsidies. Moreover, the provision leaves it up to the local school district or library board to determine both the type of filtering technology to use and the kinds of materials that are harmful to minors. This filtering technology -- which many parents have already installed on their home computers -- would keep materials designed only for adults out of the reach of our children, a reasonable standard of care for our children.

We urge you to help retain the House-passed language with regard to protecting our children on-line in schools and libraries. This provision will ensure our children take advantage of this powerful learning tool without being assaulted by materials that are not only inappropriate, but dangerous for our children.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request on behalf of our children, parents and communities.

Sincerely,

Chip Pickering

Ed Bryant

Joseph Watts

Lee Myrick

Az Hatcher

Byron Allen

Paul Walker

Bob Kiley

David LaSalce

Ernest Isidro

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